

Senate Estimates 8 November 2022

APVMA Board Chair, Dr Carmel (Carrie) Hillyard AM

Opening statement

Thank you Chair.

I was honoured to be appointed as Chair of the new Board for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority earlier this year, and this is the first time I have appeared before you.

The APVMA Board is committed to ensuring good governance and the sustainability of the APVMA and it is working hard to support the authority to continue to deliver timely approval of safe and effective agvet chemical products.

The APVMA is committed to being a trusted partner – both nationally and internationally, while always preserving our independence and integrity as a regulator.

Staffed with a strong field of experienced and talented scientists, the APVMA uses the best available science in our regulatory decisions.

Indeed, Australia can be proud that our highly regarded scientists are leading a number of initiatives with other regulators around the world.

In the short time that the new Board has been in place, we have been actively engaged in building linkages with a broad range of stakeholders.

As part of our governance role, the APVMA Board has been refining our strategic objectives through engagement with our staff and through broad public consultation.

Our new draft strategy outlines the key priorities of the APVMA to ensure that our regulatory system is contemporary, supports operational excellence and provides superior 'over the horizon' capability to meet the challenges and opportunities in the sector.

In particular, the Board understands the need for Australia to be prepared to regulate the new technologies and innovations that are emerging in the sector, while always balancing the regulatory effort with the burden on those we regulate.

The APVMA's focus remains to ensure that Australians are provided with timely access to safe and effective agvet chemical products that support agricultural productivity, improved animal health and respond effectively to biosecurity threats and challenges.

Thank you.